

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
COLORADO STATE OFFICE  
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To: All Field Office and Center Managers  
Attention: All Fire Management Officers

From: Deputy State Director, Division of Resources and Fire

Subject: Updating Annual Operating Plans

The attached document titled, *Fire Restriction and Closure Template – County Annual Operating Plans*, is the result of agreements among the Colorado State Forester and the land management agencies in Colorado. It is important to manage restrictions and closures in a consistent manner across jurisdictions to both minimize the negative impacts on public use of wildlands and to more effectively reduce the risk of unwanted wildfire ignitions. Please incorporate this language or its intent when updating Annual Operating Plans with the counties.

The process for initiating restrictions and closures should be clear to all parties. Implementation should be seamless across all lands and jurisdictions involved in the county.

It is essential that the restrictions and closures are easily understood by the public. Joint communication plans should be prepared well in advance. They should include mass media campaigns, sign plans, and patrol and public contact plans. Restrictions and closures are an extension of fire mitigation and prevention education programs. Restriction and closure plans should be an integral part of interagency mitigation and prevention education plans that are part of the annual operating plans.

Ensure that all relevant agencies are part of the annual operating plan. In particular, Colorado State Parks, where appropriate, are to be among the signatories to the annual operating plans. Triggers for each level of restriction or closure should be determined locally through consultation among the parties and documented in the Annual Operating Plan.

Signed by:  
Linda Anania  
Deputy State Director,  
Division of Resources & Fire

Authenticated by:  
Adrian Caufield  
Supervisory IT Specialist  
Branch of IRM & Access

1 – Attachment

1 - Fire Restriction and Closure Template – County Annual Operating Plan (4 pp)

cc: Jim Hubbard  
Lyle Laverty